

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

25X1A

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

SUBJECT SED Instructions for Reporting Public
Opinion

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Note: This document, a letter of instructions to local SED officials charged with reporting on public opinion in their areas, is noteworthy not only for its frank admission of the SED practice of influencing public opinion with tailor-made counter-propaganda; it also documents the growing interest of the party in the activities and opinions of the clergy in the Soviet Zone.

Socialist Unity Party
of Germany
Kreis Executive Committee Mernigerode

Wernigerode, 30 June 1949

To all members of the Agitation of the Masses Branch (Party Information) in the local and Factory Executive Committees in Kempt Hornigerode.

Subject: Reporting for Party Information

Honored Members:

The following subjects are to be reported on regularly. Next 5

1. What objections and arguments are used against the National Front?

- a) in party circles
 - b) by non-party members
 - c) by members of other parties
2. What does the public say about the decisions of the Volksrat?
 3. What points of view are expressed against the competition drive, against incentive pay, and against the raising of workers' performance quotas?
 4. Where and in what form is the political activity of the clergy against the SED evident? Where are there preachers who sympathize with the SED and in what form does this show up?
 5. How do the various classes of the public regard the publicity material of the party (posters, brochures, tracts)?

Please give your views on these points and report regularly in the form

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prescribed in the last circular. Attention is once more called to this matter.

We don't need reports like: "the population says", "People think", etc. We have to know who says it, of what party, from what social class, whether worker, farmer, factory worker, or land holder, whether intellectual, teacher, physician, and the like, whether in public life or participating but little in public affairs. These reports must be made if our Party Information is to carry out its purposes fully and completely.

When mentioning single points as well, exact reports must be made. We should not merely state that this or that feeling prevails among the population; we must get as exactly as possible the arguments and reasons which are behind them. Only this kind of exact reporting makes it possible to apply appropriate counter-measures. Every reporter will recognize the seriousness of this job, and we now expect the reports in the proper form.

With socialistic greetings!
 (signed) Fricke
 Agitation of the Masses Branch
 Party-Information Section

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